

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As a matter of public health, we urge you to reschedule cannabis under the Federal Controlled Substances Act.

Currently, cannabis is classified as a Schedule I substance, alongside *significantly* more harmful substances such as Heroin and LSD, and above far more dangerous drugs such as fentanyl, morphine, methadone and cocaine in the Schedule II category. As a Schedule I substance, cannabis is not accepted for medical use on the federal level, which has caused significant research restrictions and continues to thwart the treatment of a wide range of patients, including those suffering from cancer as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and people living with Multiple Sclerosis and seizure disorders.

While prescription opioids remain necessary in some cases, initial research has shown cannabis to be a significantly less addictive yet effective pain-management alternative. As our nation continues to grapple with the opioid epidemic and the record-breaking death toll it caused amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot afford to sideline safer alternatives in the name of arcane regulations. Each day cannabis remains overly scheduled, patients and researchers across the United States continue to lose access to life-saving therapies and data. Further, cannabis' Schedule I classification puts the United States far behind many of our international partners and scientific competitors including: Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Netherlands.

For the sake of patients across the country, as well as the United States' medical superiority across the globe, the challenges posed by the overly stringent Schedule I classification of cannabis must be addressed. We stand ready and willing to work with your administration on this public health matter. Lives are on the line.

Sincerely,



David P. Joyce
Co-Chair, Congressional Cannabis Caucus



Don Young
Co-Chair, Congressional Cannabis Caucus